the strength of the relationships between the location, e.g., the ITEM LOC 1, and the help item, e.g., the INFO ITEM D, pair based on the historical frequency of the help item being selected by a user who seeks help while originating at that location. In an embodiment of the present invention, the relationship strength 504 comprises a value indicator represented as an integer, e.g., 2, 4, etc.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Marked-up Version Showing Changes**."

Remarks

Applicant has reviewed the final Office Action dated March 10, 2003 and the reference cited therein. In response thereto, the specification is amended to correct a typing error. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to consider the following remarks.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by de Hita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,081,774) (hereinafter "de Hita"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites a method of providing a context sensitive mapping of a plurality of help informational items in an information retrieval system, which comprises the steps of providing a database having one or more record entries, the one or more record entries defining relationships between originating locations from which help requests are originated and corresponding ones of the plurality of help informational items, and said one or more record entries each including an associated relationship strength value based on historical frequency of selection of respective said corresponding ones of said plurality of help informational items during a help information retrieval session initiated from said originating locations; upon detection of a user initiation of a help information retrieval session from an originating location, determining whether one or more matching record entries exist in said database for said originating location; and providing, if said

one or more matching record entries exit, an access to one or more associated help informational items corresponding to said originating location according to said one or more record entries.

de Hita does not disclose or teach providing a database having one or more record items defining relationships between originating locations from which help requests are originated and corresponding ones of the plurality of help informational items, and the one or more record entries each including an associated relationship strength value based on historical frequency of selection of respective the corresponding ones of the plurality of help informational items during a help information retrieval session initiated from the originating locations. Rather, in column 4, lines 40-47, de Hita discloses a topic prioritizer including a token weight calculator that prioritizes the topics in the topic tree in accordance with the frequency of their occurrence and other indicators of their importance inferred from their token attributes. There is no motivation or suggestion in de Hita to teach the above feature because de Hita merely discloses a conventional content based natural language information retrieval system, not a retrieval system of the present invention which is designed to solve the problem of finding the same information that a user previously located. As described in the Background of the present invention, as the size of a database becomes very large (e.g., the number of web pages in the WWW is currently in the hundreds of millions, and growing fast), a user may have to navigate through, i.e., select and review, a significant number of informational items before arriving at the one desired informational item. The navigation through the ever increasing number of informational item to find the one desired informational item is often proved difficult, and requires a considerable investment of time, effort, and sometimes even good fortune, on the part of the user. Particularly, after finding the information once, to find the same information again, unless the user remembers the location of the information, the user may have to follow the same navigational trail, again spending the required time and effort. Moreover, a subsequent user looking for the same information would have to duplicate the time and effort, i.e., must re-invent-the-wheel, in order to find the information, and often ends an information retrieval session in frustration without finding the desired information. This duplicated effort is wasteful and inconvenient, and thus diminishes the usefulness of the database. de Hita does not address or appreciate these problems. It is respectfully submitted that merely disclosing the prioritizing of topics based on their general occurrence and the other indicators of their importance inferred from their token attributes does not result in efficiently finding the same information for a user

who tries to find the same information as s/he has previously found or the same information as another user has previously found, e.g. the user does not need to navigate through, i.e. select and review, a significant number of informational items before arriving at the same desired information item which has been located before. On the other hand, the present invention solves the above problems by providing a database having one or more record entries, the one or more record entries defining relationships between originating locations from which help requests are originated and corresponding ones of the plurality of help informational items, and said one or more record entries each including an associated relationship strength value based on historical frequency of selection of respective said corresponding ones of said plurality of help informational items during a help information retrieval session initiated from said originating locations, etc., as recited in the claims.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-33, which recited the above features, patentably distinguish over de Hita.

With respect to the Examiner's comments in the Office Action, paragraph 21, that "In response to Applicant's arguments, ... Applicant's fail to define the structure of the claimed "a navigational trail of the locations of information" and the field attributes...", Applicant respectfully submits that the arguments are now moot in view of the above remarks. Applicant respectfully reserves the rights to submit additional remarks with respect to the support for the structure, e.g. the support can be found at least on page 2, line 5; page 3, lines 4-7; from page 8, line 22 through page 12, line 1; and Figures, 2, 2a, 2b, 3, 5, and table 1.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the present application and a favorable response are respectfully requested.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues, please contact the below signed at 612-752-7367.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 12, 2003

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MARKED-UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 12, lines 22-27, please amend the specification as follows:

Each of the help relationship records 505 may further comprise a relationship type field [203] 503, which is always "HELP" type, and a relationship strength field 504, which indicates the strength of the relationships between the location, e.g., the ITEM LOC 1, and the help item, e.g., the INFO ITEM D, pair based on the historical frequency of the help item being selected by a user who seeks help while originating at that location. In an embodiment of the present invention, the relationship strength 504 comprises a value indicator represented as an integer, e.g., 2, 4, etc.